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Florida House Unanimously Passes Education Accountability Bill

Tallahassee, Fla.—The Florida House of Representatives today unanimously passed CS/HB 7069 relating to education accountability. The bill is a comprehensive approach to addressing education system.

“Chair O’Toole has worked hard to bring all stakeholders together to address the concerns about accountability,” said House Speaker Steve Crisafulli (R-Merritt Island). “With the passage of reforms, I believe we have ensured our schools will remain focused on student success.”

“With the passage of this legislation, we have addressed legitimate concerns about student testing while maintaining a strong accountability system that promotes quality instruction in the classroom, increasing transparency to provide clear and consistent information, and maximizing flexibility for our local school districts,” said Rep. Marlene O’Toole, Chair of the Education Committee and sponsor of the bill. “I want to thank all my fellow members of the House as our continued efforts to set clear goals and measure learning gains will help Florida’s students succeed in college and their future careers.”

The bill:

- Allows districts to set a school start date as early as August 10 each year.
- Eliminates unnecessary and duplicative state and district assessments by repealing the statewide, standardized 11th grade ELA assessment and repealing the required administration of the PERT to high school students.
- Prohibits administration of final exams in addition to statewide, standardized EOC assessments.
- Provides flexibility to districts to monitor the reading proficiency of K-3 students and address the needs of students who struggle in reading and math.
- Streamlines provisions relating to 4th grade promotion and district K-12 comprehensive reading plans.
- Reduces classroom disruption by allowing district employees such as teacher assistants to administer state assessments.
- Enhances transparency and assessment literacy by requiring the development and use of a uniform assessment calendar, specifying required elements for the calendar, and requiring

timely reporting of district assessment and progress monitoring results to teachers and parents.

- Requires that teachers be provided certain information on student performance, when available.
- Grants districts greater flexibility in measuring student performance in grades and subjects not associated with the state assessment program.
- Grants districts greater flexibility in evaluating teacher performance by reducing the student performance and instructional practice evaluation components to one third each and streamlining evaluation system monitoring provisions.
- Requires the state board to publish a comparison of district evaluation and state performance results.
- Provides for certain Title I high schools to receive school recognition awards if funds are available.

The bill has a cost savings of \$750,000 to the Student Loan Operating Trust Fund due to the elimination of the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT). There are potential savings to districts due to the possible elimination of local testing items.

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